



2131  
JFW

**PATENT**  
5181-70000/P5196

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 09/653,609  
Filed: August 31, 2000  
Inventors:  
Slaughter, et al.

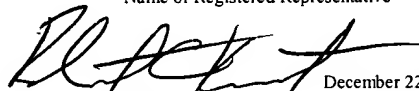
Examiner: Abrishamkar, Kaveh  
Group/Art Unit: 2131  
Atty. Dkt. No: 5181-70000

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD  
FOR SECURE MESSAGE-  
BASED LEASING OF  
RESOURCES IN A  
DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING  
ENVIRONMENT

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date indicated below.

Robert C. Kowert

Name of Registered Representative

  
Signature

December 22, 2004  
Date

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2004**

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action of September 22, 2004, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.